

*Supply—External Affairs*

wholesale, but nothing is said about that. Mr. Heath went on to say:

This is where the question comes back to our door-step... This is the importance of what is happening out in the Far East, not only to those likely to be affected but to this country.

There are many responsible people in the world who realize that the situation in Viet Nam is a very complicated one. I would be the first to agree that we cannot go on as we are going now. As soon as possible a means must be found to stop the warfare there. But I say also that the war will never be solved simply by the withdrawal of the United States and permitting communist North Viet Nam to take over the 14 million people in South Viet Nam without any regard for their sovereignty.

It is very interesting also that as a result of the recent offensive in Viet Nam the communist movement in southeast Asia has really overstepped itself. The domino theory is working but it is working in reverse. The national leaders of countries fronting on communist China are now recognizing, if they did not recognize it before, that it is not American imperialism but communist aggression that they face in Viet Nam. Viet Nam is simply the theatre of conflict between the two world forces of communism and democracy. They are locked together in a life and death struggle.

I had occasion last year to visit most of the countries fronting on communist China. I talked to the heads of government and various officials. In no case, all the way from Japan to Malaysia, did I find any government leader expressing the belief that the problem would be solved by the United States pulling out of South Viet Nam. In fact, when Britain decided to remove her own forces from southeast Asia we saw how rapidly some of the leaders of these southeast Asian countries asked Great Britain not to move out because she would be leaving a vacuum there that could not easily be filled. I am thinking particularly of the prime minister of Singapore who, as the leader of that strategic area, understands communist policies in that part of the world. These countries will be influenced by recent communist activities in northern Laos, in Thailand and even in little Cambodia. They realize that what the hon. member for Greenwood would describe as United States aggression in South Viet Nam is in reality communist aggression which is evidencing itself in those countries as well.

Consequently, Mr. Chairman, these countries recognize that freedom is at stake not only for the 14 million people of South Viet Nam but also for the 250 million people in the countries along the rim of China. They do not want communism but they do not have the resources to defend themselves against it. The most immoral thing the allied nations could do in the light of the developments in Asia today would be to abandon these people, thus rewarding communist aggression by sacrificing the freedom of these people. So, Mr. Chairman, as I say there are two sides to this question. While we want peace, and we in Canada must use the peculiar position we hold in the world to work for peace, we cannot believe we will ever gain peace by compromising the rights of individuals and our respect for autonomous nations. All these things should be guaranteed to such nations, no matter how small or how strong they may be.

Leaving that subject, Mr. Chairman, I must say how pleased I was to hear the remarks made by the leader of the official opposition this afternoon in expressing the policy of his party with regard to foreign aid. I believe this is a very vital subject. Our aid could be of a very unique type. While we can learn from the mistakes that have been committed by wealthier countries, we are not yet carrying our full responsibility in regard to the underdeveloped countries.

We have heard it said many times in recent months that the greatest problem in this country is unity. I should like to say a few words to those people who believe that national unity is our major problem at this critical point in our history. I am convinced that we will find the problem of unity far less acute if we face up to the challenge to Canada to play her true part in the world family of nations. We are a nation such as every ex-colony would want to be. We have inherited stable and sometimes respected but sometimes not so respected institutions. But at least we certainly have greater stability of government than most nations in the world. Our people have the education and skills that make the difference between poverty and wealth in the industrialized world of today. One third of the world's people faces starvation and famine and another third is undernourished but we in Canada have abundance. Our problem is not how to produce wealth but how to bring it to those in our own land and elsewhere who are in need of it